

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-13 /082 W
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FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1825
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0066

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, OVIP, CA (TRUDEAU, PIERRE)

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: TRUDEAU VISIT AND GARRISON DIVERSION

REF: OTTAWA 610

1. MANITOBA MEDIA INITIALLY WAS NOT VERY SEIZED WITH THE TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON. BOTH WINNIPEG DAILIES RAN WIRE SERVICE STORIES AS WELL AS PRE-VISIT ANALYSES BY NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. THIS INDIFFERENCE PROBABLY CAN BE TRACED TO SOME UNCERTAINTY WHETHER THE ONLY MAJOR BILATERAL ISSUE WITH LOCAL IMPACT (GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT) WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA. LAST WEEK THERE WERE CONFLICTING PRESS REPORTS FROM OTTAWA WHETHER IT WOULD EVEN BE RAISED. THEN, IT WAS INDICATED THE PM WOULD DISCUSS THE PROJECT AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, BUT CANADA WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. ABOUT GARRISON UNTIL THE IJC HAD FILED ITS FINAL REPORT.

3. HOWEVER, WHEN HOUSE OF COMMONS UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED PM S ANNOUNCEMENT FEB 18 THAT HE WOULD SEEK DEFERRAL OF WORK ON LONETREE RESERVOIR, LOCAL IMPORTANCE OF TRUDEAU VISIT SUDDENTLY INCREASED.

4. SUBSEQUENT NEWS STORIES LATE FEB 18 AND EARLY FEB 19 THAT USG HAS IN FACT DECIDED TO DEFER FURTHER WORK ON THE LONETREE DAM HAVE
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OF COURSE GRABBED THE TOP SPOT ON ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MANITOBA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL TERMED THE DECISION A VICTORY FOR OPPONENTS OF THE GARRISON PROJECT BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE PROJECT STARTED, ALL CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN HALTED.

5. THERE WAS ALSO REPORT FEB 18 THAT NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATORS HAVE

INVITED MANITOBA MLA'S AND MP S TO MEET THEM AT THE INTERNATIONAL
PEACE GARDEN TO DISCUSS GARRISON, TENTATIVELY ON MARCH 3RD. A
SPOKESMAN FOR PREMIER SCHREYER HAS INDICATED MANITOBA'S WILLINGNESS
TO ATTEND.
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Message Attributes

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